

Dechter, Mike -FS

From: Wendy S. LeStarge <LeStarge.Wendy@azdeq.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 08, 2013 11:48 AM
To: FS-comments-southwestern-coconino
Cc: Linda C. Taunt
Subject: Rock Pit Development: Coconino and Kaibab National Forests

This message is sent on behalf of Linda Taunt, Deputy Division Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division:

We received the June 28, 2013 notice requesting comments on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests' preliminary environmental assessment to develop and operate up to 39 material pits over a period of 20 years to provide cinders, gravel and aggregate materials for surfacing roads. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division (ADEQ) is responsible for ensuring the delivery of safe drinking water to customers of regulated public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act, permits for proposed discharges to surface waters of the United States under the federal Clean Water Act, permits under the State aquifer protection program, and water quality certifications of certain federal licenses and permits.

ADEQ submitted comments in 2011 during the scoping process. Because the time period will be for approximately 20 years, ADEQ would add the following comments as related to water quality,

1. Surface water quality permits issued under the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) program, such as the Multi-Sector General Permit for stormwater discharges, can last no more than five years. Operators of the material pits must ensure that they have coverage under the most current AZPDES permit available.
2. Under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, Arizona is required to assess its surface waters on a biennial basis, the results of which are published in the "Status of Water Quality in Arizona 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) Listing Report." A surface water body not meeting one or more of the applicable surface water quality standards is listed as impaired under § 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Because proximity to an impaired water may impact surface water quality permits, operators of the material pits should be aware of the latest biennial report.

Information on the most current 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) Listing Report and AZPDES permits are available on ADEQ's website at <http://www.azdeq.gov>. We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments. If you need further information, please contact Wendy LeStarge of my staff at (602) 771-4836 or via e-mail at w11@azdeq.gov, or myself at (602) 771-4416 or via e-mail at lc1@azdeq.gov.

*Wendy LeStarge
Environmental Rules Specialist
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
(602) 771-4836*

NOTICE: This e-mail (and any attachments) may contain PRIVILEGED OR CONFIDENTIAL information and is intended only for the use of the specific individual(s) to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged and confidential under state and federal law. This information may be used or disclosed only in accordance with law, and you may be subject to penalties under law for improper use or further disclosure of the information in this e-mail and its attachments. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the person named above by reply e-mail, and then delete the original e-mail. Thank you.